OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
MAINE

154 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224–5344

Web Site: http://snowe.senate.gov

DEPUTY WHIP

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–1903

May 13, 2009

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

OCEANS, ATMOSPHERE, FISHERIES AND COAST GUARD SUBCOMMITTEE

FINANCE

INTELLIGENCE

RANKING MEMBER, SMALL BUSINESS

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-131 The Capitol

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-146 A The Capitol

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Chairman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable George V. Voinovich
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Dear Senators Inouye, Cochran, Byrd, and Voinovich,

I am writing to request your support for funding in the Fiscal Year 2010 (FY2010) Homeland Security Appropriations bill for programs and projects that are important to Maine. A description of these requests in alphabetical order by organization follows.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family members has a pecuniary interest in the congressionally directed spending items that we have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 or Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify that I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

Eastern Maine Health Systems, Continuum of Care Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning, Brewer, Maine -- $640,000. Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems (EMHS), on behalf of the Northeastern Maine Regional Resource Center (NE-MRRC), is requesting a federal partnership to integrate Long Term Care Facility and Home Healthcare Agency plans into established regional and community response plans utilizing an All-Hazards approach to emergency preparedness and response.

In 2004, Maine CDC established three Regional Resource Centers in response to the HRSA Hospital Bioterrorism Program. The purpose of the three centers is to engage in medical, behavioral, public health emergency preparedness, and response planning. Emergency preparedness plans, nationally as in Maine, have focused primarily on increasing the capacity, capability, and competency of healthcare emergency response agencies.

The Continuum of Care Initiative will incorporate home care /hospice providers and the long term care facilities into the Region III emergency preparedness collaborative network. This will provide for a comprehensive and coordinated healthcare response to any incident which is deemed to overwhelm usual healthcare delivery, or otherwise

AUBURN
TWO GREAT FALLS PLAZA
SUITE 7B
AUBURN, ME 04210
(207) 786–2451

AUGUSTA
40 WESTERN AVENUE, SUITE 408C
AUGUSTA, ME 04330
(207) 622–8292

BANGOR
ONE CUMBERLAND PLACE, SUITE 306
BANGOR, ME 04401
(207) 945–0432

BIDDEFORD
227 MAIN STREET
BIDDEFORD, ME 04005
(207) 282–4144

PORTLAND
3 CANAL PLAZA, SUITE 601
PORTLAND, ME 04101
(207) 874–0883
MAINE RELAY SERVICE
TDD 1–955–3323

PRESQUE ISLE
169 ACADEMY STREET, SUITE 3
PRESQUE ISLE, ME 04769
(207) 764–5124

IN MAINE CALL TOLL-FREE 1–800–432–1599

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constitute a public health emergency. The planning process will complete an assessment for this region, and develop a model that can be readily duplicated in the other two regions of Maine, as well as for any region nationally.

Northeastern Maine Regional Resource Center (Maine's Region III) is a unique rural case study for emergency preparedness. The region covers the northeastern most two-thirds of the geography of the State of Maine, which includes approximately 25,500 square miles, 19 separate Hospital Service Areas (HAS), and includes 54 Long Term Care facilities and 15 home health care agencies. This rural, geographically isolated region includes approximately 80% of Maine's unprotected international border, and 66% of Maine's coastline.

The outcome of this proposed initiative will be an integration of home care/hospice and long term care facilities into established regional response systems; development of a template to facilitate replication for other rural regions; and an enhanced ability for home care/hospice and long term care facilities to shelter in place in the event of a disaster event for approximately 7-10 days in the absence of external resources. Tangible products of the initiative will include: Regional Needs Assessment for Continuum of Care, Hazard Vulnerability Analysis for Continuum of Care, Standardized MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between LTC organizations, Home Health Care Agencies, Fire, Law Enforcement, Acute Care Facilities and FQHC's, All Hazards Emergency Response Plan Template for LTC, All Hazards Emergency Response Plan Template for Home Health Care, Training program, Disaster Exercise Program compliant with HSEEP and AAR (After Action Review) with CAP (Corrective Action Plan) and the purchase of basic communication, personal protective equipment and training equipment.

Greenville School Department, Greenville Schools ADA Upgrades and Infrastructure Work, Greenville, Maine -- $500,000. The Greenville Middle School/High School is the designated Red Cross Shelter for the entire Moosehead Lake Region. Funds will be utilized to assist local taxpayers in bringing the Greenville MS/HS building up to current Codes in the areas of ADA requirements and Fire Safety in order to meet the needs of the Moosehead Lake Region in the event of an Emergency and as an educational institution for K-12 education. As an educational system, Greenville MS/HS services students from the entire Moosehead Lake Region, many of whom travel great distances. As a designated Red Cross Shelter for the region, they would be called upon to provide evacuation services in the event of an emergency. Certain infrastructure needs must be met in order to provide these services effectively. Greenville MS/HS can not meet requirements to receive Capital Improvement Funds from the State of Maine due to its small enrollment.

Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System, Portland, Maine -- $1,000,000. The Commission on Ocean Policy, the President's Ocean Action Plan, the Pew Oceans

Commission, Congress, and many studies and government ocean advisory groups call for the implementation of a national integrated, ocean-observing system (IOOS). The Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (GoMOOS) is one of the first operational components of the national ocean observing system. An integrated ocean observing system will provide detailed observations and a variety of capabilities in support of the mission of many federal agencies. Specifically, the USCG has 5 primary roles, maritime safety, maritime security, maritime mobility, national defense, and protection of natural resources. The real-time information provided by GoMOOS improves the USCG ability to respond to all of these missions and gives mariners information that they need to make safer decisions. This project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because GoMOOS provides a valuable public service that is used by individuals and organizations to help save lives, protect resources, and save money.

The GoMOOS system includes oceanographic buoys, a website and data services that provides continuous real time observations in the Gulf of Maine. GoMOOS marked its 9-year anniversary in October 2008, and it has become an integral part of Maine's maritime economy providing weather and ocean condition data products to a wide range of users including the Coast Guard, fishermen, commercial mariners, emergency managers, pipeline managers, marine research institutions, recreational boaters, the U.S. Navy, municipalities, coastal managers, Maine state government, and many others. GoMOOS buoy data is used on a daily basis to make operational decisions.

Northern Oxford Regional Ambulance Service, NORAS Regional Ambulance Facility/River Valley Public Safety Facility, Mexico, Maine -- $1,500,000. Construction of a new ambulance/public safety facility. The ambulance service is currently a regional program covering over 500 square miles of geography having eleven towns as owners in a quasi-municipal fashion. The local fire services are looking to regionalize and currently have several different delivery models on the table. This facility would be designed and located to immediately address the needs of the ambulance service's viability, efficiency, and effectiveness, but would also be designed and located in a manner that would support continued and expanded regional efforts in both the fire and police arenas. This phase would include a 4 bay metal structure type apparatus area approximately 86 feet by 80 feet in length and width with an attached stick built single story ranch 86 feet by 60 feet to house the administrative offices, crew quarters, and training room.

Somerset County, Emergency Operations Center (Phase I), Skowhegan, Maine -- $980,000. Somerset County, located directly on the U.S. border with Canada, is in dire need of a new Emergency Operations Center (EOC). In 2003, the Maine Emergency Management Agency documented inadequacies in the County's emergency operations. As of 2005, the County was home to 51,667 people inhabiting nearly 4,000 square miles. In 2005, three emergency centers in the county were absorbed into the one, limited physical structure that served as the main Emergency Operation Center (EOC) in

Somerset County. This caused 12 additional emergency response agencies to be combined and housed in the one, cramped EOC, which the State's assessment had already deemed deficient. Further, in 2008, communities surrounding Somerset County (required to consolidate by the State) requested that they be provided 911 services by the same EOC. Thus, in 2008, eight communities with a total population of over 40,000 residents contracted 911 services through this same, single, inadequate EOC.

University of Maine, Assessment of Infrastructure Safety using Wireless Sensors, Orono, Maine -- $1,000,000. Applications of wireless sensors in bridge monitoring have been limited in the past, mainly due to two major problems with wireless sensors: a) limited battery power, and b) unreliable wireless link. A novel approach based on the integration of the wireless radio with a power harvesting sensor is proposed to advance the current technology. This approach is applicable to a wide variety of sensor types and structures. The wireless sensor network will provide warning of abnormal loading conditions and alert a notification system. The notification system will interface in real time with a system for infrastructure safety assessment to identify critical elements and to activate response measures. UMaine has identified the new Penobscot Narrows Bridge and the old Waldo-Hancock Bridge, which are in close proximity, to implement the wireless sensor network and validate the predictive model for safety assessment.

Once again, thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact my staff with any further questions.

Sincerely,

OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
United States Senator